

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 01276 01 OF 02 201440Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 /099 W
-----102121 201450Z /50

R 191413Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8416
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ALGIERS 1276

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SCUL, XF, LE, AG
SUBJ: VISIT OF PARTRIARCH MAXIMOS V TO ALGERIA

1. SUMMARY: GOA GAVE GREEK CATHOLIC PATRICARCH MAXIMOS AND LARGE DELEGATION RED CARPET TREATMENT DURING APRIL 12-17 VISIT. ALGERIAN AIMS WERE PROBABLY TO PROJECT ACTIVIST MIDDLE EAST IMAGE AND TO GARNER LEBANESE CHRISTIAN SUPPORT ON SAHARA. MAXIMOS AND DELEGATION APPARENTLY ANXIOUS TO TELL LEBANESE CHRISTIAN STORY IN RADICAL ARAB STATE AND TO CONDEMN PALESTINIANS. ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF MAXIMOS'S DELEGATION BELIEVE THEY SCORED POINTS HERE, WE SUSPECT VISIT TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY DIALOGUE OF DEAF. END SUMMARY.

2. HIS BEATITUDE MAXIMOS V HAKIM, GREEK CATHOLIC PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH, ALL THE ORIENT, ALEXANDRIA, AND JERUSALEM, PAID HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ALGIER 01276 01 OF 02 201440Z

PUBLICIZED OFFICIAL VISIT TO ALGERIA APRIL 12-17 IN COMPANY OF DELEGATION OF SOME 40 LEBANESE CHRISTIANS. MEDIA EMPHASIZED PATRIARCH WAS VISITING AT PERSONAL INVITATION OF PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE, AND DELEGATION SOURCES TOLD US SPECIAL AIR ALGERIE PLANE HAD BEEN SENT TO BEIRUT TO BRING ITS MEMBERS HERE.

3. GOA ROLLED OUT RED CARPET FOR THIS OCCASION AND GAVE DELEGA-

TION UNUSUAL EXPOSURE. SCHEDULE INCLUDED:

A. APRIL 10: WELCOME AT AIRPORT BY NATIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT BITAT AND CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

B. APRIL 11: CALL ON PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE IN PRESENCE OF FLN PARTY CHIEF YAHIAOUI, FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MOULOUD KASSIM.

C. APRIL 12: LUNCHEON WITH BOUMEDIENE, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT BITAT, YAHIAOUI, AND OTHER GOA LEADERS; VISIT TO MUSEUM OF REVOLUTION; RECEPTION OF POLISARIO DELEGATION; MEETING WITH ALGERIAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS, INCLUDING HIGHER ISLAMIC COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAMANI AND CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP DUVAL.

D. APRIL 13: CONFERRAL OF DOCTORATE FROM UNIVERSITY OF ALGIERS BY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION RAHAL IN PRESENCE OF CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

E. APRIL 14: VISIT TO HOT SPRINGS AND SOCIALIST VILLAGE IN ORAN REGION.

F. APRIL 15: VISIT TO LNG FACILITIES AT ARZEL.

G. APRIL 16: CALL ON BOUMEDIENE AND BOUTEFLIKA. INTERMINABLE ECUMENICAL MASS AT ALGIERS CATHEDRAL IN PRESENCE OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

H. APRIL 17: DEPARTURE. CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION AGAIN SUMMONED, THUS BRINGING TO MORE THAN 10 HOURS MINIMUM TIME HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS SPENT ON THIS VISIT.

4. FROM EXCHANGES WITH DELEGATION MEMBERS OF OUR OWN ANALYSIS, WE JUDGE THIS VISIT TO HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED ON ALGERIAN SIDE BY DESIRE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ALGIER 01276 01 OF 02 201440Z

TO APPEAR ACTIVE IN MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS AND GARNER SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION--FROM ANY SOURCE--FOR POLISARIO. BY GIVING VISIT GREAT PROMINENCE IN MEDIA AND INVOLVING HIGH REGIME FIGURES IN SCHEDULE, GOA ACHIEVED ITS FIRST OBJECTIVE. BY GETTING PATRIARCH TO RECEIVE POLISARIO DELEGATION LED BY SECY GEN MOHAMED ABDELAZIZ AND LATER DECLARE "WE ARE GOING TO WORK IN DEFENSE OF THE INTERESTS OF THESE PEOPLE, JUST AS WE ARE WORKING TO DEFEND THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE," GOA CAN CONVINCE ITSELF IT ACHIEVED SECOND OBJECTIVE AS WELL.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 01276 02 OF 02 191715Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 /099 W

-----082985 201449Z /50

R 191413Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8417

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ALGIERS 1276

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

5. GOA IS UNLIKELY TO GO BEYOND THIS TOKENISM. ACCORDING TO DELEGATION SOURCE, AT ONE POINT, WHEN PATRIARCH ASKED BOUMEDIENE TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN LEBANON, LATER ANSWERED (ONLY HALF-JOKINGLY) "WE WOULD LOVE TO, BUT WOULD OUR FRIENDS THE SYRIANS LET US?"

6. ON CHRISTIAN SIDE, VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BOTH BY DESIRE TO BRING "CHRISTIAN" STORY IN LEBANON TO MAJOR RADICAL ARAB STATE WITHOUT RECOURSE TO "PARTISAN" INTERMEDIARIES LIKE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT AND BY WISH TO SHATTER ALGERIAN ILLUSIONS ABOUT PURITY OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE. DELEGATION WAS DESIGNED TO REPRESENT MAIN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OF LEBANON. IN ADDITION TO GREEK CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF SIDON, TYRE, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, AND PARIS, NUMBER OF MARONITE, GREEK ORTHODOX, AND ROMAN CATHOLIC LUMINARIES CAME ALONG: ELIE KARAME (MEMBER OF PHALANGE PARTY POLITBURO), JOSEPH EL KHAZEN (FRANJIEH PROTEGE), AND SEVERAL PARTISAN JOURNALISTS FROM "AL-JARIDA",
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ALGIER 01276 02 OF 02 191715Z POSS DUPE

"AL-ANWAR", "AL-HADITH" (?), AND "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR".

7. ACCORDING TO DELEGATION SOURCE, PARTIARCH AND HIS ENTOURAGE AFFIRMED SUPPORT OF CHRISTIANS THROUGHOUT MIDDLE EAST FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE WHILE AT SAME TIME BRINGING TO ALGERIANS' ATTENTION "DEFICIENCIES" IN PALESTINIAN BEHAVIOR, ESPECIALLY IN LEBANON. IN TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE, DELEGATION MEMBERS COMPLAINED FREELY ABOUT "ANARCHIC PRESENCE" OF PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON AND TRAGEDY WHICH HAS RESULTED FROM THIS PRESENCE. IN ALL ITS DISCUSSIONS,

DELEGATION COMPLAINED THAT PALESTINIANS ARE DOING NOTHING TO ENHANCE ARAB CAUSE IN MIDDLE EAST AND HAVE NOW BROUGHT ABOUT OCCU-

PATION OF SEVENTEEN PERCENT OF LEBANESE TERRITORY. THEY ALSO OBSERVED THAT ALGERIA WILL, IF IT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STEADFASTNESS AND PALESTINIANS SO STRONGLY, LOSE PRESTIGE IN MIDDLE EAST.

8. BOUMEDIENE AND OTHER GOA LEADERS, ACCORDING TO DELEGATION MEMBERS, DEFENDED PRINCIPLES OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND ALGERIAN SUPPORT FOR THESE PRINCIPLES AT OUTSET OF DISCUSSIONS, BUT THEY CAME TO ADMIT THEIR RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN "MISTAKES AND DIRTY DEEDS (AWSAAKH)" AND HAD LITTLE TO SAY IN LATTER STAGES OF TALKS. TO CHRISTIANS, THESE SIGNALLED AT LEAST PARTIAL VICTORY IN THEIR CAMPAIGN, AND THEY CLAIMED THEIR COMPLAINTS ABOUT PALESTINIAN EXCESSES STRUCK RESPONSIVE CHORD WITH SEVERAL (UNNAMED) GOA MINISTERES CRITICAL OF THEIR GOVERNMENT'S MIDDLE EASTER POLICY.

9. WE HAVE HAD NO INFORMATION ON VISIT FROM GOA SOURCES AND ARE HIGHLY SKEPTICAL OF PICTURE PAINTED BY CHRISTIANS CITED ABOVE. IF NEANDERTHAL DELEGATION MEMBERS WITH WHOM EMBOFF EXCHANGED VIEWS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF PATRIARCH'S THINKING, TALKS WITH ALGERIANS MUST HAVE BEEN A DIALOGUE OF THE DEAF. EXCHANGES BETWEEN DELEGATION AND ALGERIA'S OWN NEANDERTHAL, MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ALGIER 01276 02 OF 02 191715Z POSS DUPE

MOULOUD KASSIM, WHO CHAPERONED DELEGATION THROUGH MOST OF ITS PROGRAM, MUST HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SPIRITUAL.
HAYNES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, SPEECHES, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ALGIER01276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780169-0318
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780442/aaaabjew.tel
Line Count: 199
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c2998bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2925130
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF PARTRIARCH MAXIMOS V TO ALGERIA
TAGS: PEPR, SCUL, SHUM, PGOV, XF, LE, AG, (HAKIM, MAXIMOS V)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2998bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014